

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 10, 12, 15-16, 21-22, 24, 29-30, and 32-56 will be pending in the above-identified application. Claims 10, 12, 15, 21-22, 24, 29-30, and 32 have been rewritten to incorporate their base claims. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-9, 11, 13-14, 17-20, 23, 25-28, and 31

Claims 1-9, 11, 13-14, 17-20, 23, 25-28, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,275,824 (hereinafter "O'Flaherty"). To facilitate early allowance of claims 10, 12, 15-16, 21-22, 24, 29-30, and 32, Applicants have cancelled rejected claims 1-9, 11, 13-14, 17-20, 23, 25-28, and 31. Thus, the rejections of claims 1-9, 11, 13-14, 17-20, 23, 25-28, and 31 are now moot. Applicants do not acquiesce in any rejection over the cited reference and therefore reserve the right to prosecute the cancelled subject matter in a continuation application.

Claims 10, 12, 15-16, 21-22, 24, 29-30, and 32

The Office action indicated that claims 10, 12, 15-16, 21-22, 24, 29-30, and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 10, 12, 15, 21-22, 24, 29-30, and 32 in independent form including all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 16 now depends from allowable independent claim 15. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10, 12, 15-16, 21-22, 24, 29-30, and 32 are in proper form for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Claims 33-56

Claims 33-56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,275,824 (hereinafter "O'Flaherty"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 33 recites “associating a record within said data source to a virtual table, wherein said virtual table is not defined with database metadata.” The Office action cites the following passages of O’Flaherty as disclosing the claimed element.

As a virtual table, a dataview is not physically materialized anywhere in the database until it is needed. All accesses to data, (with the possible exception of data access for administrative purposes) is accomplished through dataviews. To implement a variety of privacy rules, a suite of a plurality of dataviews is provided. **Metadata about the privacy dataviews** (including the dataview name, names and data types of the dataview columns, and the method by which the rows are to be derived) **is stored persistently in the database metadata**, but the actual data presented by the view is not physically stored anywhere in association with the derived table. Instead, the data itself is stored in a persistent base table, and the view’s rows are derived from the base table.

(Col. 4, ll. 13-27).

The dataviews in the dataview suite 108 of the present invention generate SQL statements that selectively pull appropriate columns and rows from the base tables into the result table.

(Col. 10, l. 66 to col. 11, l. 2).

Not only do the cited passages not disclose or suggest the claimed element, the first cited passage actually teaches away from the claimed element. Specifically, it teaches that “[m]etadata about the privacy dataviews . . . is stored persistently in the database metadata.” Additionally, O’Flaherty discloses:

One important capability of a **database management system** is the ability to **define a virtual table and save that definition in the database as metadata** with a user-defined name.

(Col. 4, ll. 7-10). In contrast, claim 33 recites “associating a record within said data source to a virtual table, wherein said virtual table is not defined with database metadata.” Thus, O’Flaherty fails to teach or suggest the claimed element. Accordingly, claim 33 is patentable over O’Flaherty.

Claims 34-40, which depend from claim 33, are allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 41 and 49, which recite elements similar to those of claim 33, are patentable over O'Flaherty for at least the same reasons. Claims 42-48 and 50-56, which depend from claims 41 and 49, are allowable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of claims 10, 12, 15-16, 21-22, 24, 29-30, and 32-56 is believed to be warranted and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 11-12-02

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

In the Claims

Claims 10, 12, 15, 21-22, 24, 29-30, and 32 have been amended as follows:

10. (Amended) [The]A process [of claim 9 in which]for accessing a virtual table comprising:
identifying a first data source;
associating a first record within said first data source to a virtual table;
accessing said first record;
identifying a second data source;
associating a second record within said second data source to said virtual table;
accessing said second record; and
logically populating said virtual table with said first record and said second record, said first record populates a row in said virtual table, said second record also populates said row.
12. (Amended) [The]A process [of claim 1 in which]for accessing a virtual table comprising:
identifying a data source;
associating a record within said data source to a virtual table, said record comprises a first column and a second column;
accessing said record; and
logically populating said virtual table with said record, both said first column and said second column[s] of said record are used to populate a single column in said virtual table.
15. (Amended) [The]A process [of claim 13 further]for accessing a virtual table comprising:
identifying a first data source;
associating a first record within said first data source to a first virtual table;
accessing said first record;
logically populating said first virtual table with said first record;
identifying a second data source;
associating a second record within said second data source to a second virtual table;
accessing said second record;[and]
logically populating said second virtual table with said second record; and

[wherein said] performing a data manipulation operation [operates] against both said first virtual table and said second virtual table.

21. (Amended) [The] A computer program product [of claim 20 in which] that includes a medium usable by a processor, the medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a process for accessing a virtual table, said process comprising:

identifying a first data source;

associating a first record within said first data source to a virtual table;

accessing said first record;

identifying a second data source;

associating a second record within said second data source to said virtual table;

accessing said second record; and

logically populating said virtual table with said first record and said second record, said first record populates a row in said virtual table, said second record also populates said row.

22. (Amended) [The] A computer program product [of claim 17 in which] that includes a medium usable by a processor, the medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a process for accessing a virtual table, said process comprising:

identifying a data source;

associating a record within said data source to a virtual table, said record comprises a first column and a second column;

accessing said record; and

logically populating said virtual table with said record, both said first column and said second column[s] of said record are used to populate a single column in said virtual table.

24. (Amended) [The] A computer program product [of claim 23 further] that includes a medium usable by a processor, the medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a process for accessing a virtual table, said process comprising:

identifying a first data source;

associating a first record within said first data source to a first virtual table;

accessing said first record;

logically populating said first virtual table with said first record;

identifying a second data source;

associating a second record within said second data source to a second virtual table;

accessing said second record;[and]
logically populating said second virtual table with said second record; and
[wherein said]performing a data manipulation operation [operates]against both said first virtual table
and said second virtual table.

29. (Amended) [The]A system [of claim 28 in which]for accessing a virtual table comprising:
means for identifying a first data source;
means for associating a first record within said first data source to a virtual table;
means for accessing said first record;
means for identifying a second data source;
means for associating a second record within said second data source to said virtual table;
means for accessing said second record; and
means for logically populating said virtual table with said first record and said second record, said
first record populates a row in said virtual table, said second record also populates said row.

30. (Amended) [The]A system [of claim 25 in which]for accessing a virtual table comprising:
means for identifying a data source;
means for associating a record within said data source to a virtual table, said record comprises a first
column and a second column;
means for accessing said record; and
means for logically populating said virtual table with said record, both said first column and said
second column[s] of said record are used to populate a single column in said virtual table.

32. (Amended) [The]A system [of claim 31 further]for accessing a virtual table comprising:
means for identifying a first data source;
means for associating a first record within said first data source to a first virtual table;
means for accessing said first record;
means for logically populating said first virtual table with said first record;
means for identifying a second data source;
means for associating a second record within said second data source to a second virtual table;
means for accessing said second record;[and]
means for logically populating said second virtual table with said second record; and
[wherein said]means for performing a data manipulation operation [operates]against both said first
virtual table and said second virtual table.